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**DHEC Health Update**

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## **Ebola Real Time RT-PCR testing at the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories**

**This update is to provide healthcare professionals with the latest information regarding:**

- Ebola test capabilities at the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL)
- Screening process for Persons under Investigation (PUI)
- Reporting

### **Ebola Test Capabilities at the Bureau of Laboratories**

As a member of the Laboratory Response Network, the Bureau of Laboratories Special Pathogens Laboratory was granted CDC approval to perform CDC/USAMRIID Ebola Zaire rRT-PCR for Ebola screening on October 23, 2014.

### **Screening process for Persons under Investigation (PUI)**

Any individual suspected of being infected with the Ebola Zaire virus should be screened by the CDC Check List for Patients Being Evaluated for Ebola Virus Disease which can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/checklist-patients-evaluated-us-evd.pdf>. If symptoms and risk factors identified in the checklist are met or if a provider is unclear if a patient meets the testing criteria, providers must call the Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology (DADE) personnel at 1-888-847-0902 for notification and patient assessment. If warranted, DHEC will seek CDC Ebola test approval. Upon approval, the Special Pathogens Laboratory will contact the provider for specimen collection, packaging, and shipping guidance.

**Specimens will not be accepted without prior consultation with DADE and CDC approval.**

### **Reporting**

The estimated turn-round-time for presumptive results is 6 hours from receipt of specimen at the BOL. Results will be disseminated through DADE to the provider.

Regardless of the results of the presumptive screening, confirmatory testing will be performed at the CDC and results should be available within 24 hours of receipt of the specimen at CDC. It is important to note that it may take up to 3 days after symptoms onset for the virus to reach detectable levels. Therefore, if specimens are collected <3 days post onset, a subsequent specimen may be requested to completely rule-out the presence of Ebola.